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Intercountry programmes

Summary

As a result of the harmonization of the budgets of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, the proposals relating to the previous category 4 (advocacy and programme development for headquarters and regional offices) are presented separately from the support budget (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.10). The formal decision to be made on the basis of the present document is the adoption of the draft resolutions in paragraphs 81 and 82.

* E/ICEF/2001/12.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report sets out for approval the programmes and budgets for headquarters, regional offices and intercountry programmes for the 2002-2003 biennium. As a result of the harmonization of the budgets of UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, the proposals relating to the previous category 4 (advocacy and programme development for headquarters and regional offices) are presented separately from the support budget (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.10). This is also in line with recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The present proposal has been organized into separate sections for headquarters and for regional offices.

II. Headquarters

2. The proposed advocacy and programme development budget for UNICEF headquarters for the period 2002-2003 will be used for activities to support the five organizational priorities of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP). These five organizational priorities — girls' education; integrated early childhood development (ECD); immunization "plus"; fighting HIV/AIDS; and improved protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and discrimination — are set out in the MTSP for the period 2002-2005 (E/ICEF/2001/13). Building on initiatives in the 2000-2001 budget cycle, provision has been made to further strengthen programme guidance, information systems and the information technology infrastructure, and to support enhancements of the quality and effectiveness of UNICEF country cooperation, programme delivery and global advocacy.

Budget for advocacy and programme development

3. The budget for advocacy and programme development at UNICEF headquarters to support the organizational priorities of the MTSP is broken down by regular resources and other resources in the major programme fields and is shown in table 1. For the 2002-2003 biennium, the regular resources budget is $12.7 million and the other resources budget is $63.0 million. The total budget, as proposed, shows a reduction of $3.2 million, from $78.9 million in 2000-2001 to $75.7 million in 2002-2003. The reduction, mainly in the regular resources budget, has been achieved by having a more focused and cost-effective approach to programme and programme guidance development. These savings from the headquarters budget are proposed for use in strengthening the corresponding regional-level functions.

Table 1
Advocacy and programme development budget for headquarters
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme fields	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health	1 203	5 412	6 615
Nutrition	800	4 111	4 911
Education	850	1 896	2 746
Child protection	430	7 284	7 714
HIV/AIDS	793	821	1 614
Water, environment and sanitation	504	2 630	3 134
Subtotal	**4 580**	**22 154**	**26 734**
Programme policy, planning and information management	1 760	11 246	13 006
Information technology	-	15 300	15 300
Advocacy and communication[a]	3 990	7 250	11 240
Emergency preparedness	930	6 700	7 630
Evaluation	671	200	871
Inter-agency collaboration	740	150	890
Subtotal	**8 091**	**40 846**	**48 937**
Total proposed for 2002-2003	**12 671**	**63 000**	**75 671**
Total approved for 2000-2001	**15 913**	**63 009**	**78 922**

[a] Includes provision for these activity areas for the Office for Europe of $660,000 from regular resources and $1.2 million in other resources.

4. A significant part of the headquarters' budget for advocacy and programme development is proposed for collaborative approaches within and across technical programme fields in support of the organizational priorities. UNICEF has established a network of cooperation with key agencies and institutions, both within and beyond the United Nations system, to mobilize broad-based support for programme initiatives and policies to advance the rights of children and women. For example, UNICEF, as a co-sponsoring agency of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), plays a significant part in the multi-agency global collaborative effort to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to mitigate its effects. Similarly, in the area of immunization, UNICEF is a major collaborator in the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), and also participates in multi-agency initiatives on malaria, polio eradication, school sanitation and in other areas. Within the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), UNICEF contributes to the development and testing of global training materials, policy, guidance and knowledge networking in areas such as human rights-based approaches to development, gender mainstreaming and poverty reduction strategies, with a particular focus on children, including as part of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In support of such collaborative undertakings, the proposed budget will be used for the co-funding of partnership

programmes, the development and publication of programme experience and guidance material, the identification and assessment of lessons learned and best practices, research and studies in key areas for children and women, and the dissemination of knowledge.

5. The technical programmes in health, nutrition, education, child protection, HIV/AIDS, and water, environment and sanitation (WES), with a total budget of $26.7 million, will directly support a combination of the five organizational priorities of the MTSP. The work in support of the MTSP priorities of the various technical and operational sectors at UNICEF headquarters will be coordinated through five cross-divisional task teams, which were established at UNICEF headquarters during 1999-2001 and which are linked to regional- and country-level initiatives. The remaining budget of $48.9 million is allocated among programme policy, planning and information management; information technology; advocacy and communication; emergency preparedness; evaluation; and inter-agency collaboration.

6. An estimated $0.8 million from regular resources and $1.5 million in other resources of the education budget will be used to support the **girls' education** organizational priority. Some contributions will also be made by other sections, including WES, for school hygiene and sanitation. In line with the United Nations Secretary-General's Girls' Education Initiative and the UNICEF leadership role therein, the main goal is to promote improvement of the enrolment, retention, learning achievement and school completion of girls. To encourage local participation in achieving this goal, a decentralized management strategy, based on a set of common principles outlined in the report on "Girls' education: a framework for action", will be followed. The African Girls' Education Initiative, which is coordinated and managed by the Education Section at UNICEF headquarters, will extend its scope to include a total of 34 countries. Activities in support of the girls' education goal will include:

(a) The provision of programme guidance to country offices on ways to increase girls' access to education and quality learning in child-friendly and gender sensitive schools;

(b) Technical support to improve gender parity in primary schools and transition to post-primary education;

(c) Evaluation studies and collection of country-level data to analyse progress and best practices and draw lessons from a variety of programme experiences;

(d) Support to UNICEF country-level and counterpart capacity-building through workshops and conferences, and the development of training materials.

7. The main goal of the **immunization "plus"** organizational priority is safe immunization with cost-effective vaccines and the provision of vitamin A capsule supplementation where vitamin A deficiency remains a public health problem. Its other goals include support to the strengthening of health systems, sector-wide planning, coordinating links with interventions in nutrition, malaria control and community-based activities for improving child-care practices in communities and families. Support for immunization "plus" will come from the health ($1.1 million from regular resources and $1.5 million in other resources) and nutrition ($0.095

million from regular resources) budgets. Activities undertaken at the global level in support of the immunization "plus" goals will include:

(a) The provision of programme guidance to field offices and partners to develop, implement and monitor immunization "plus" plans and mobilize resources;

(b) Technical support to develop and strengthen systems to forecast needs for resources (financial and human) and inputs (vaccines, syringes, cold-chain equipment and vitamin A supplements);

(c) Strengthening of strategic collaboration with GAVI partners and others, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO), for the continued mobilization of resources for immunization "plus" goals;

(d) Support to and strengthening of collaborative programmes and partnerships to meet the goals of immunization "plus";

(e) Support to country and regional offices to promote and participate in evaluation studies in selected countries.

8. The **integrated early childhood development** (ECD) priority will receive support from the budgets of health ($3.4 million in other resources), nutrition ($0.7 million from regular resources and $4.1 million in other resources), education ($0.08 million from regular resources and $0.4 million in other resources) and WES ($0.5 million from regular resources and $2.6 million in other resources). ECD is an approach for effectively integrating and promoting all priority actions at institutional and policy levels, and within families and communities, to ensure the rights of every child to survive, grow and develop. ECD is dependent on the quality of family care, the effective access of mothers and children to good quality basic services, and the wider community and policy environment, which support these services. One of the major goals of integrated ECD will be to develop strategies and good practices in support of comprehensive approaches to the care of young children and mothers. Activities at the global level in support of integrated ECD will include:

(a) The provision of operational guidance, training materials in the three key areas of care practices, effective access of families to basic services and essential commodities, and national policies on ECD, and advice to country offices and partners on how to increase the effective access of young children and women to quality basic services and to family and community child care;

(b) Sharing of research on communication methods and strategies to advance the knowledge of existing child care practices, and where necessary, the adoption among families and communities of improved practices for the care of young children and pregnant women;

(c) Supporting the documentation of national experience in developing policies, strategies and child-focused indicators for integrated ECD;

(d) Sharing with field offices and partners best practices, case studies and technical literature on birth registration, policies and strategies for integrated ECD, the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), and methodologies for country case studies for the evaluation of integrated ECD;

(e) Leadership, in collaboration with other agencies and organizations, including in the ECD Consultative Group and its regional networks, to promote and

advance integrated ECD as a major strategy for the realization of children's and women's rights.

9. The main goal in support of the **HIV/AIDS** organizational priority will be to contribute, in collaboration with other partners, to knowledge building and strategy development in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention and care, including a media campaign on the effects of HIV/AIDS. The health ($0.1 million from regular resources and $0.5 million in other resources) and HIV/AIDS ($0.8 million from regular resources and $0.8 million in other resources) budgets will contribute to the HIV/AIDS goal through the following activities:

(a) The provision of programme guidance and technical support to regional and country offices for training in human rights and HIV/AIDS, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV, the care of orphans, and the development and implementation of minimum standards relating to HIV/AIDS in the work place;

(b) Strengthening of HIV/AIDS prevention and care strategies through in-depth case study analysis;

(c) Collaboration with international partners, including through UNAIDS, to develop consistent programme policies, strategies and work plans;

(d) Sharing and disseminating knowledge on the epidemic, based on state of the art information and analysis, including the latest technical and scientific developments, global response and the UNICEF contribution to combating HIV/AIDS;

(e) Maintaining a knowledge base of technical literature, scientific developments and innovations to illustrate successes and failures in strategies and programme implementation;

(f) The provision of technical inputs and case studies for global media campaigns and special events;

(g) Developing an expanded and core list of indicators and survey methods and tools to track individual sexual and reproductive health-related behavioural changes.

10. The **child protection** organizational priority addresses the issues of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children, child labour, children affected by domestic and other violence and abuse, armed conflict, harmful traditional practices and weak juvenile justice systems. Capacity-building and the development of indicators to enable country offices to support government partners in the revision of national standards on the protection of children, particularly those without caregivers, will be major goals in this area. The child protection budget of $0.4 million from regular resources and $7.3 million in other resources will contribute to the child protection goals through the following activities:

(a) The provision of programme guidance and technical support to country offices and government partners in developing and implementing programmes that address child protection issues, including sexual exploitation, child labour and child abuse;

(b) Strengthening support and communication networks for global advocacy and programmatic interventions, including enhancing institutional and individual familiarity with child protection issues;

(c) Coordinating knowledge acquisition and developing technical papers on themes such as psychosocial reintegration, child trafficking, the role of communications and behaviour change in child protection, and law-based strategies;

(d) Producing an international study on violence against children as a follow-up to the Graça Machel study on the "Impact of armed conflict on children".

11. In support of the organizational priorities, the **programme policy, planning and information management**, with an estimated budget of $13.0 million, will be used to formulate programme policy and guidance; manage and disseminate data on children and women; develop new indicators to monitor programme impact, particularly in the emerging areas of integrated ECD, child protection and adolescent development; manage information for programme policy, planning and development at both global and country levels; and coordinate and support the development of an agency-wide information base. The main activities will include the following:

(a) *Programme policy*: research the manifestations of child poverty in selected countries; analyse intra-country disparities in social indicators; and assess resources required to meet the Millennium Declaration goals relating to children and women;

(b) *Programme guidance*: based on continuous assessment of experience and lessons learned in country cooperation, and in close association with the regional offices, produce or update organizational guidance in the following areas: core programme policies and procedures in the context of the United Nations reform; the multi-year funding framework; the MTSP and sector-wide approaches (SWAPs); the use of strategic partnerships to pursue child-related goals; participatory and gender-sensitive programme strategies; programming and responses in emergency situations; the integration of human rights-based approaches in programming; and strategies for reaching excluded and highly disadvantaged children and women, in both rural and urban areas;

(c) *Managing and disseminating data*: develop the capacity to organize, display and use data on children and women through the use of the ChildInfo system. This will require the development of a support infrastructure for all regions, including the establishment of regional databases; delineating duties of focal points at country and regional levels; and organizing training workshops;

(d) *Developing new indicators*: review the availability of data, indicators and methodologies, and assess their appropriateness in the context of monitoring needs; modify existing tools, where possible, or develop new ones, where necessary; test tools in field situations and disseminate results via meetings, publications and the Internet; and promote the use of the tools;

(e) *Information management*: conduct an information audit to determine which information can be turned into knowledge to further the MTSP goals; develop an information policy which defines the objectives of information use; outline the principles on which information will be managed; outline the role of information

systems and technologies to support information management; and use this policy as the basis for defining the details of an information management strategy;

(f) *Agency-wide information base*: develop and maintain information "packages" on each of the priority areas defined in the MTSP, and make this information available through the UNICEF Intranet; and improve "institutional memory" by ensuring that key historical documents are converted into a format which allows electronic assess. This area will also encompass updating UNICEF annual reporting, the Programme Manager System and the expenditure coding system to reflect the MTSP priorities and to facilitate reporting on progress and results to the Executive Board and funding partners.

12. The proposed budget of $15.3 million for **information technology** will be used to invest in and upgrade systems to simplify work processes and improve productivity, facilitate information-sharing, improve the safety and security of field personnel, and support new software applications. The activities will include:

(a) Upgrading the Financial and Logistics System and implementing the human resources module of the commercial software package, which will have a positive impact on business processes and bring further opportunities to improve overall productivity and integration, and represents a further step towards a single system approach;

(b) Introduction of the software Quick Place to support information-sharing by facilitating geographically dispersed groups of users (country teams, divisions, sections) to collaborate in discussion forums, comment on draft documents, share contact information, define basic project time lines and keep others informed of plans;

(c) Identification of field office requirements; procurement and the installation of needed telecommunications equipment; the design of global training materials; implementation of operations and staff security telecommunications training in field offices; and provision to field offices of telecommunications support personnel;

(d) Migration from the legacy operating systems to ensure that newer software applications are fully supported, which will eliminate the risk of utilizing obsolete and unsupported software.

13. **Advocacy and communication** are essential components in ensuring achievement of the MTSP goals. The dissemination of information, access to quality web content, advocacy for children's rights through the Global Movement for Children, and the production of high quality radio and television materials ensure that children's rights to survival, growth and development are at the forefront of development. The estimated $11.2 million budget will be used for activities in support of these aims and will include:

(a) Redesign of the UNICEF web site, which will improve the quality of content that is produced; appeal to a younger support base for whom the Internet is a major source of information and participation; and improve the security of the site;

(b) Improved communication response to emergencies by deploying emergency communication support at the onset of a sudden crisis; ensuring continued sustainability of the annual emergency preparedness planning exercise; ensuring that standard operating procedures can be quickly put into effect by

minimizing administrative and financial constraints; and improving capacity to gather high quality audio-visual material within the first week of the onset of an emergency;

(c) Continued support for the Global Movement for Children at regional, national and community levels through the creation of opportunities for information-sharing (web, publications, meetings) and communication campaigns that create a greater public awareness of children's rights;

(d) Research and evaluation to assess the impact and reach of communication activities and products; and to inform decision-making on communication strategy in general. A reinforced research and evaluation capability will enable UNICEF to measure and monitor implementation of its new communication strategy to support the MTSP priorities;

(e) Increased support to the production of material for radio through the purchase of professional radio recording and editing equipment; the provision of educational radio packages that deal with issues affecting children's lives; and improved capacity through the employment of a radio producer.

14. The goal of **emergency preparedness** is to enhance the capacity of UNICEF and its partners for risk assessment, threat analysis, preparedness planning and readiness to respond to humanitarian crises. The estimated budget of $7.6 million will support the objectives of improved UNICEF humanitarian response capacity to emergencies through the collection and dissemination of critical information and regular monitoring of situations; strengthened risk assessment and early warning analysis and information systems for preparedness and response; and the integration of preparedness capacities into the country programme process. The activities in support of these objectives will include:

(a) Maintenance of a 24-hour Operation Centre to serve as an information hub;

(b) Production of daily and weekly reports, as well as ad hoc situation reports;

(c) Continuing to build baseline information on countries affected by or experiencing incipient emergencies;

(d) Further development of policy guidelines on mainstreaming emergency preparedness planning and on response in specific technical areas;

(e) Support to the development of organizational systems and mechanisms to support and respond to country office preparedness plans.

15. **Evaluations** are conducted to determine how a programme has been implemented, to review its outputs and impact, to draw lessons and to make recommendations for future programme design and implementation. For an organization to understand the impact of its interventions and to improve its performance in programme cooperation, it is essential that evaluations form an integral part of the overall programming process. The $0.9 million set aside in the budget for evaluation will contribute significantly to assessing the impact of each of the five organizational priorities on programme implementation in a number of countries. In addition, resources will be used to further develop the methodology for

country programme evaluations, strengthen capacity to evaluate programmes and strengthen the global evaluation database. The main activities will include:

(a) Evaluating the impact of programmes that address the organizational priorities and draw lessons for future programme design and implementation;

(b) Setting out a methodology to evaluate country programme performance and using this methodology to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of UNICEF-supported projects and programmes;

(c) Strengthening the capacity of country offices to evaluate programme performance through the updating of the evaluation manual and performance reporting;

(d) Enhancing the evaluation database by providing real time access via the Intranet; streamlining the data entry process at country, regional and headquarters levels; and improving the quality and reliability of the database content.

16. **Inter-agency collaboration** is essential to United Nations reform and to participation in donor-supported initiatives at the country level. UNICEF, as part of UNDG, has worked closely with other agencies to harmonize country programme cycles and preparation processes. The Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UNDAF are key components in the preparation of country programmes of cooperation. In addition, the involvement of UNICEF country offices in SWAPs and their contributions to the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) aim to ensure that priority issues relating to the rights of children and women in the country context are adequately addressed and that programmes contain interventions which will benefit children directly. The proposed $0.9 million will facilitate the continued contribution of UNICEF to inter-agency collaboration. Specific activities will include:

(a) Evaluation, monitoring and overall support to UNICEF engagement in United Nations reform, SWAPs and the development of child-focused elements of PRSPs, and strengthening of the role of regional offices in support of the CCA/UNDAF;

(b) Development of guidelines and training for country offices in reviewing CCAs and UNDAFs of priority countries to ensure coherence with the organizational priorities;

(c) Revision and updating of training and learning materials to support UNICEF participation in SWAPs and, as part of the United Nations Country Team, in PRSPs.

III. Regional offices

17. The budget proposal for the seven regional offices consists of $7.0 million from regular resources and $66.8 million in other resources. The regional offices play a strategic role in guiding and supporting the country offices in using the MTSP as the framework for UNICEF activities in programmes, partnerships, alliances, advocacy and internal operations. The main programme activities for each of the regional offices are outlined below.

Table 2
Advocacy and programme development budget for regional offices
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Regional offices	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Eastern and Southern Africa	1 500	14 800	16 300
West and Central Africa	1 500	9 400	10 900
The Americas and Caribbean	800	9 000	9 800
East Asia and the Pacific	800	6 650	7 450
South Asia	800	19 450	20 250
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	800	4 000	4 800
Middle East and North Africa	800	3 515	4 315
Total	**7 000**	**66 815**	**73 815**

A. Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office programme budget

18. The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 22 countries in the region. The programme budget of $1.5 million from regular resources and $14.8 million in other resources will be utilized to support country offices in the implementation of programmes that address the five organizational priorities; to support countries to prepare emergency preparedness and response plans; to advise country offices on participation in United Nations and World Bank-supported processes; and to expand the use of information databases for informed decisions and advocacy.

19. Support will be provided to various aspects of the **HIV/AIDS** response in countries in the region, particularly in the following areas: breaking the silence/reducing stigma; preventing HIV infection among young people; developing large-scale strategies and capacities for preventing MTCT; care and support to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS; and care and support for infected and affected women and children. In most of these intervention areas, youth participation will receive special emphasis. The regional office, through a cross-sectoral team, will continue to provide technical guidance and support to country offices, the African Union and other regional institutions as well as for interfacing with UNAIDS and its other co-sponsors. Activities will be funded by modest regular resources, but predominantly with other resources. Support will also be provided to countries for developing appropriate proposals for funding through global and private sector partnership initiatives.

20. Technical and advocacy support to **immunization "plus"** will include interventions to eradicate polio, sustain routine immunization, provide support to country programmes for actions to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, and provide adequate vitamin A to young children. Support will also be given to develop plans and monitor implementation under GAVI. Other support will include rapid acceleration of activities for the prevention and treatment of malaria, linking these interventions with the community-based initiatives on IMCI, together with WHO and the Roll Back Malaria initiative in countries of the region.

21. As a part of the regional office response to the Education for All (EFA) initiatives, the priority will be on **girls' education**, an MTSP priority, and gender-responsive HIV/AIDS and life skills education programmes for both in-school and out-of-school children and young people. Technical support will be provided for monitoring learning achievement; quality education; and promotion of the safety and security of children, especially girls.

22. As part of the region's support to **integrated ECD**, emphasis will be placed on the prevention of child malnutrition through infant and young child feeding. Support will be given to country programmes and partners to develop and implement programmes that improve infant and young child feeding and to monitor trends through providing assistance for the collection and analysis of nutrition data. In addition, support will be given for the promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding, including implementation of the provisions of the Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes and subsequent World Health Assembly resolutions; implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative strategy; and support for appropriate and safe complementary feeding. This prioritization is especially relevant in the context of static nutritional status among young children in several countries of the region due to malaria, HIV/AIDS and decreasing trends of immunization.

23. Emphasis in **child protection** will be given to prevent and mitigate violations of children's rights in all situations, with a particular focus on those children living in extreme poverty and affected by armed conflict as well as to provide technical support for interventions at the country level for children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In addition, there will be support to protect women from violence and harmful traditional practices.

24. In addition to the five organizational priorities, funds will be sought within the area of **emergency preparedness** for specific follow-up activities to the core corporate commitments in emergencies, including maintenance of the Regional Emergency Support Unit. The Unit will provide technical support to countries to carry out humanitarian action in all emergency situations in the countries of the region, including conflicts, natural disasters, etc., in close collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other regional bodies. Support will also be given to countries to prepare consolidated appeals for emergency response, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and agencies providing humanitarian assistance.

25. Other priorities to be pursued in the region will include providing support to countries to participate in the CCA/UNDAF, SWAP and PRSP processes; to ensure that children's and women's rights and priority goals are adequately reflected in country plans; and to ensure that proposed actions are sustainable.

26. Knowledge acquisition, advocacy and learning are essential to the support provided by the regional office. Key activities will include further expansion of the use of the information database ChildInfo on various indicators on women and children at country, provincial and district levels, and the linkage of these data to various presentation forms such as graphs, tables and maps for informed decisions and advocacy.

Table 3
Advocacy and programme development budget for ESARO
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Programme development and implementation of the MTSP organizational priorities	1 261.3	12 700.0	13 961.3
Emergency preparedness	-	200.0	200.0
Support to CCA/UNDAF, SWAPs and PRSPs	127.7	-	127.7
Knowledge acquisition, advocacy and learning	111.0	1 900.0	2 011.0
Total	**1 500.0**	**14 800.0**	**16 300.0**

B. West and Central Africa Regional Office programme budget

27. The West and Central Africa Regional Office (WCARO) provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 24 countries in the region. The programme budget of $1.5 million from regular resources and $9.4 million in other resources will be utilized to support country offices in the implementation of programmes that address the five organizational priorities; to support countries to develop emergency preparedness and response plans; and to provide regional information and communication support.

28. The regional office will focus on three main areas of support to **immunization "plus"**. These will be to provide technical assistance to country offices and Governments and to prioritize global strategies in the areas of sustainable routine immunization services, polio eradication, maternal and neo-natal tetanus elimination, measles mortality reduction, exclusive breast-feeding promotion, and the reduction of vitamin A, iron and iodine; to promote the International Development Targets related to maternal, infant and under-five mortality, focusing on the reduction or elimination of specific diseases, including malaria; and to monitor the performance of country offices.

29. Support to **HIV/AIDS** initiatives will include the provision of technical assistance to country offices in the areas of prevention of MTCT of HIV; protection, care and support for orphans and families made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS; monitoring country office performance; and supporting the dissemination of good experiences and lessons learned.

30. The regional office will include the following in response to **girls' education**: provide global policy orientation and technical assistance to country offices and Governments and prioritize regional strategies related to access to school; promote a comprehensive approach to quality education, with special attention to the promotion of child-friendly and gender-sensitive schools; and support country offices in the achievement of programme objectives and in the dissemination of good country office experiences and lessons learned to improve programme impact.

31. Five main areas will be addressed under **child protection**. These are the provision of technical assistance on global and regional strategies for children affected by armed conflicts; assistance to country offices and Governments in

promoting legal and practical steps towards eliminating the worst forms of child labour, especially child trafficking, hazardous work, sexual exploitation and the use of child soldiers in armed conflict; and the development of partnerships in the area of child protection.

32. The three main targets for **integrated ECD** will be to support, review and ensure the integration into country programmes of the key elements of ECD in the areas of health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, hygiene, psychosocial development, care and early learning; to monitor country programme progress related to ECD strategy implementation; and to contribute to the development of global policies and strategies related to integrated ECD and adapt them to the regional context.

33. The **information and communication** programme has two components: information, advocacy and resource mobilization; and programme communication. The main goals will be to accelerate international media coverage of the countries in the region on issues affecting children and women; establish a mechanism that will ensure the provision of timely and accurate information on UNICEF concerns and operations in West and Central Africa, with special attention to countries in emergency situation; and develop a training plan for country office programme communication and assist in the elaboration of an integrated communication plan to assist country programmes in behaviour and attitudinal change in the area of immunization, HIV/AIDS, girls' education and other organizational priorities and in the pre-testing of communication material.

34. Within **emergency preparedness and response**, the main aims will be to provide assistance and global policy orientation on country profile assessments, emergency preparation and response plans at country and regional levels in the framework of the core corporate commitments; build capacity and partnerships in emergency preparation and response; assist in emergency proposals, including consolidated appeals; and develop regional office rapid response capability to assist countries facing acute emergencies.

35. To fulfil its role in support of country activities, the regional office will incur **cross-sectoral support costs**, which will include salaries of staff to monitor and evaluate the impact of programmes in achieving the goals set out in the MTSP; travel of staff and counterparts to review programme implementation; and publication of materials related to programme experience and lessons learned.

Table 4
Advocacy and programme development budget for WCARO
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Immunization "plus"	160	2 200	2 360
HIV/AIDS	60	900	960
Girls' education	140	800	940
Child protection	120	1 000	1 120
Integrated ECD	140	400	540
Information and communication	140	1 000	1 140
Emergency preparedness	-	1 800	1 800
Cross-sectoral support costs	740	1 300	2 040
Total	**1 500**	**9 400**	**10 900**

C. The Americas and Caribbean Regional Office programme budget

36. The Americas and Caribbean Regional Office (TACRO) provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 35 countries in the region, including those covered by multi-country programmes. The total programme budget for TACRO for the period 2002-2003 is $9.8 million, $0.8 million from regular resources and $9.0 million in other resources. The overall goal of the TACRO programme is to efficiently and effectively support country offices and partners throughout the region in the achievement of the MTSP and regional priorities in the fulfilment of children's rights. This goal will be achieved through the framework of two programmes.

37. The core of the regional office's support will focus on the **promotion and achievement of the MTSP goals, regional objectives and accountabilities**. The activities will include assistance to adolescent issues, disparity reduction, rights empowerment and processes of political and social change from a rights perspective. This programme is, in essence, an operational plan to achieve these priorities and objectives. It is comprised of the following four projects:

(a) *Management and operations*, through which TACRO will work to create capacity at both regional and country levels for the achievement of organizational, and regional- and country-level priorities;

(b) *Regional leadership and alliances*, in which the regional office will work in collaboration with country offices, counterparts, partners and subregional bodies to promote a regional climate for success in follow through with organizational and regional priorities;

(c) *Technical support to global-, regional- and country-level thematic priorities*. TACRO will offer technical support to country offices and Governments in achieving the organizational priority objectives, the development and exchange of knowledge in key areas of child protection and development, and the promotion of public policies in favour of children;

(d) *Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, and emergency preparedness* will focus on technical support to planning and effective follow through of organizational, and regional- and country-level priorities.

38. The subregional programmes include a range of cross-national and subregional interests, including proposed and potential programming in HIV/AIDS, the inclusion of indigenous populations, emergency preparedness, child protection, social policy and cross-national data collection. The general objectives of these programmes are to:

(a) Promote integrated plans of action across nations where the scope and nature of the rights problems require multinational solutions;

(b) Respond to the interest of Governments to implement regional or subregional plans of action developed in intergovernmental forums, or where there are significant economies of scale and regional commonalities to exploit through concerted action;

(c) Improve the design and management of subregional programmes to make them an efficient vehicle for multinational action, and to effectively complement national strengths being supported through the individual country programmes of cooperation;

(d) Develop and implement thematic media campaigns for multiple countries involved in subregional programming.

Table 5

Advocacy and programme development budget for TACRO

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Promotion and achievement of MTSP goals, regional objectives and accountabilities	800	5 000	5 800
Subregional programmes	-	4 000	4 000
Total	**800**	**9 000**	**9 800**

D. East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office programme budget

39. The East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 26 countries in the region, including multi-country programmes. The total programme budget for EAPRO for the period 2002-2003 is $7.4 million, $0.8 million from regular resources and $6.6 million in other resources. The regional office has identified seven main programme interventions in support of the MTSP priorities and goals.

40. The **HIV/AIDS** programme will support the country programmes to achieve the MTSP goals. There is a need to ensure increased advocacy on priority HIV/AIDS issues to Governments and actors within regional organizations and to strengthen technical capacity through regional networking. The regional office will provide technical and operational support to country offices to strengthen and mainstream HIV/AIDS interventions in their respective programmes of cooperation.

In addition, the regional office will organize regional workshops and meetings for UNICEF staff and counterparts to share experiences from the region and provide an opportunity to learn which interventions could be usefully applied in their countries.

41. Two of the organizational priorities — **girls' education** and **integrated ECD** — have been included in the education programme.

42. Girls in the region still confront problems of discrimination, access and low quality education. The gender disparities are apparent, particularly at the pre-school and secondary levels, and contribute to girls' vulnerability to exploitation at the post-primary age of 12-19 years. Therefore, the focus of UNICEF girls' education strategies in the region needs to be on early childhood education, quality education and adolescence. The regional office will provide technical assistance to ensure that policies are in place and operational to raise girls' net enrolment rate so that all countries in the region can achieve a net enrolment rate of girls of at least 85 per cent by 2005. In addition, the regional office will work closely with the countries to improve the quality of education through teacher training, promoting a child-friendly learning environment, and improving awareness of the causes of gender discrimination and school drop-out.

43. The existing ECD initiatives in the region are largely urban and private sector activities intended for children three to five years of age. Therefore, those disadvantaged, rural and poor children who would benefit most from these programmes are excluded. The variety of programmes is wide-ranging — from child-minding to well-organized programmes that combine formal learning with social and cognitive skills development. However, most ECD programmes do not include health, nutrition and psychosocial components, but usually focus on only one element. In addition, the policies and strategies to focus on parental education for better care practices at the family level are largely absent from the region. A severe limitation in all countries is the lack of trained ECD personnel. Therefore, the challenge in the region is to build capacity, and network and advocate with Governments and communities to convince them of the critical importance of integrated ECD policies, strategies, training and programmes. The regional office will work closely with the country offices and partners to ensure that all countries have policies and strategies in place to promote the survival, physical growth, and social, emotional and cognitive development of all young children, with a special emphasis on those under three years of age. Support will be given to increase the percentage of births registered before one year of age, particularly among the most disadvantaged groups; areas with the worst social indicators; and among minority populations.

44. Four major components comprise the **health and nutrition** programme for the region. These address not only the MTSP priorities of immunization "plus" and integrated ECD, but also the "unfinished business" of safe motherhood and malnutrition. In addition, in certain parts of the region, the very serious re-emergence of malaria as a cause of infant mortality is addressed.

45. The purpose of the malaria project is to develop in-country capacity to produce an information, education and communication (IEC) strategy that will lead to increased community use of available technologies for the reduction of malaria incidence and mortality. The regional office will provide assistance to evaluate the impact of user-friendly IEC materials and guidelines for poor and vulnerable population groups at high-risk of malaria infection. It will assist countries in making

national malaria control programmes more responsive to the needs of the priority communities, particularly poor and vulnerable populations.

46. Safe motherhood and women's health have been noted as a regional priority because some countries in the region have failed to reach the year 2000 goals for the reduction of maternal mortality ratios (MMRs). The measurement of MMR is often inaccurate and difficult, and other indicators are needed that will reflect community needs and be useful in generating action. Changes in the status of the care of women during pregnancy, delivery and in the post-partum period need to be measured frequently and accurately. Support will be given to country offices to apply indicators of morbidity and other proxies for maternal mortality in a situation analysis of health care for pregnant women in selected countries. Models of care will be developed that can be applied at the subnational level in selected high-risk districts and that will serve multiple purposes to reduce morbidity and mortality of women and children.

47. Immunization "plus" is an MTSP priority because of its known cost-effectiveness in preventing childhood and maternal deaths and disabilities, and its important positive association with adequate health care delivery systems. The regional office will support countries to develop plans to immunize all children and mothers, and to provide adequate vitamin A, in a sustainable way, as well as support monitoring implementation of these plans.

48. Despite substantial advances in social and economic development in the region, child malnutrition remains a serious problem in many countries. Micronutrient deficiencies also remain prevalent, especially iron deficiency, which affects child growth and cognitive development. Vitamin A deficiency also remains widespread, contributing to a higher incidence of disease. Although there have been some improvements in total goitre rate, iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) have by no means been eliminated, and universal salt iodization (USI) remains an important priority. Other issues relating to HIV/AIDS and nutrition are of growing importance in the region. The issue of feeding infants of HIV-infected women remains problematic, as does the question of the nutritional status of these women during pregnancy. HIV-infected women are known to have less weight gain during pregnancy, and recent studies show that there is an increase in weight loss among HIV-infected mothers who breastfeed exclusively. The importance of early childhood care for the survival, growth and development of children is now well recognized. Breastfeeding, complementary feeding, bonding and caring practices are key in this regard and all obviously relate to nutrition. Further work is needed in this area to maximize its potential for child development. The regional office will assist the country offices and partners to develop and test strategies to address the causes of persistent malnutrition in the region.

49. **Child protection** is a regional concern and requires both bilateral and multilateral cooperation. A number of country programmes have initiated activities and lessons learned, which need to be shared. There are an increasing number of regional initiatives being implemented by United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, leading to a strong need for cooperation and harmonization. The response is also creating new opportunities for high-level advocacy with regional governmental bodies. The regional office will assist the country offices to facilitate and coordinate national and regional initiatives for intercountry cooperation to combat exploitation

and trafficking of children and women. In addition, it will support the development of monitoring indicators and collection systems, and coordinate the development of a regional database in conjunction with the regional ChildInfo system, including the use of mapping.

50. The **communication** programme will emphasize advocacy and communication capacity for the Global Movement for Children. The regional office will provide technical assistance to build capacity among national broadcasters to produce good quality programmes for and about children, and to support training for children to participate in the production process. It will promote the opinions of children and young people, and ensure that their voices are heard by policy and decision makers at all levels of society. In addition, the regional office will support capacity-building for national NGOs in order to promote the Convention on the Rights of the Child more effectively at all levels of society.

Table 6
Advocacy and programme development budget for EAPRO
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
HIV/AIDS	-	3 000	3 000
Education	100	800	900
Health and nutrition	180	1 300	1 480
Child protection	100	500	600
Communication	420	1 050	1 470
Total	**800**	**6 650**	**7 450**

E. South Asia Regional Office programme budget

51. The Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to eight countries of the region. The total programme budget for ROSA for the period 2002-2003 is $20.25 million, $0.8 million from regular resources and $19.45 million in other resources.

52. To fulfil its mandate, the regional office has identified five strategies: strategic leadership; context analysis; knowledge management and networking; partnerships; and emergency preparedness and response. Regular resources are sufficient only to maintain a core level of technical support and oversight. In relation to the challenges facing the region and the imperative to mobilize actions on a large scale, including at the regional level, significant additional resources are needed. Implementation of the MTSP priorities in the region requires their translation into activities, targets and demonstration of results, in which the regional office has to be prepared to provide guidance, coordination and technical support.

53. Implementation of the regional office strategies requires a wide range of partners and networks in South Asia. These partners expect UNICEF to be the repository of information and analysis on children and on what works in the region in child development. UNICEF country offices and partners in the region also seek

evidence-based advice, based on what is working in other countries in the region and in other regions. Meeting these demands requires additional human and financial resources, which cannot be provided through regular resources alone. In line with the MTSP priorities, the regional office aims to provide support in five programme areas.

54. The programme for **advocacy for children and women in South Asia** will focus on improving the status and developing the potential of the girl child in South Asia by influencing and supporting actions for social and behavioural change. The main components of the programme will be communication, advocacy, and assessment and analysis of the situation of children and women in the region. Specific activities will include an assessment and analysis of the effects of decentralization on the provision of social services for children; scaling up of the Meena Communications Initiative to ensure its long-term sustainability; and strengthening the profile and visibility of UNICEF in South Asia, the dissemination of information on issues affecting children, and the further development of partnerships with media and advocacy institutions.

55. The programme for **A Good Start, A Better Future** will support interventions in ECD, nutrition and well-being, child health, polio eradication, quality basic education and adolescents. The goal and activities for each of these interventions are summarized below.

56. Integrated ECD is a global priority for UNICEF. ROSA has initiated a range of activities, translating the corporate vision into practical actions at regional and country levels. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to improved ECD programmes in the region to ensure the cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of the child. Activities in support of this goal will include the provision of sound technical advice on ECD to country offices; strengthening of regional ECD networks and supporting country-level ECD partnership networks; promoting a region-wide communication initiative to disseminate information and knowledge on ECD; and building country office and counterpart capacity in the technical knowledge and skills needed to effectively plan and implement integrated ECD programmes.

57. Nutrition and well-being are of concern in a region where it is estimated that 60 per cent of women of child-bearing age and 50 per cent of all children are under weight, and where the high rate of child deaths is either directly or indirectly attributable to malnutrition. The goal of the project is to promote the fulfilment of children's and women's right to adequate nutrition, including access to health services, nutritious food and care. The regional office will support country offices and counterparts in the design and implementation of programmes to increase breastfeeding, improve the distribution of vitamin A in conjunction with polio eradication campaigns, and promote the use of iodized salt. In addition, technical support will include the strengthening of regional- and country-level networks to exchange ideas, identify good practices and disseminate lessons learned on nutrition.

58. The regional office's main support to child health will be through assistance to country offices and Governments on achieving the goal to eliminate neonatal tetanus cases in all countries of the region by 2005. Neonatal tetanus is the leading cause of neonatal mortality in South Asia, accounting for 14 per cent of all neonatal deaths. The regional office will provide programme guidance and technical support to the countries on interventions that identify high-risk areas through performance reviews

by subdistricts; health education and the promotion of clean delivery practices; the use of auto-disposable syringes and safety boxes during immunization rounds to ensure safe injection practices; effective IEC activities to ensure that at least 80 per cent of women of child-bearing age receive three doses of tetanus toxoid; and monitoring achievements through coverage and impact surveys.

59. Four (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan) of the 10 global priority countries for polio eradication are in the region. These countries are required to conduct extra rounds of supplementary immunization activities, with the goal of eradicating poliomyelitis in South Asia by 2005. This goal will be achieved through high routine infant immunization coverage of oral polio vaccine (OPV), supplementary doses of OPV to all children under five years of age, acute flaccid paralysis surveillance, and house-to-house mop-up campaigns to interrupt the final chains of transmission. The regional office will support the countries' in the identification of inputs needed for the campaigns, in the provision of technical advice in conducting surveillance surveys and in reporting on the progress to eradicate polio.

60. Over the past decade, all South Asian countries have made commendable progress in ensuring access to basic learning opportunities for children. EFA commitments have been translated into a wide range of actions — policies, programmes, resource allocation and institutional arrangements. However, realizing every child's right to quality basic education remains a formidable challenge in South Asia, particularly for girls. The challenge is to provide quality learning opportunities that ensure that each child comes to school, stays in school, completes schooling and achieves the basic learning outcomes. Therefore, access and quality are interrelated, where ensuring children's access to learning is worth little without adequate attention to the quality of the education being provided. The overall goal of the intervention is to enhance UNICEF country office capacity to support national quality basic education programmes that ensure that children, especially girls, come to school, complete school and achieve the expected learning outcomes. Activities in support of this goal will be through technical support to and building capacity of country offices and counterparts to design and implement quality education programmes that benefit both girls and boys; support for regional quality education networks; and the promotion of a region-wide communication initiative to disseminate information and knowledge on quality education.

61. Adolescents make up a large proportion of the population in South Asia. A large number of children in the region are married in the adolescent years, and a high percentage of pregnancies and births occur in the teenage years of young girls. The loss of opportunities for gaining life skills, a basic education prior to adolescent years or second-chance learning during the adolescent years, and the lack of a source of livelihood all contribute to the vicious cycle of poverty. Addressing the needs and rights of adolescents is, therefore, critical. The goal is to highlight and address issues that affect the well-being and rights of adolescents. Initially, much of the work will involve developing models that are culturally and regionally specific and that address the overall objectives of child development. The activities in support of the goal will include developing a regional adolescent strategy, in collaboration with key United Nations and NGO partners, that will contribute to and build on the consensus and resource networks in the region; identify entry points and capacity gaps; clarify the different needs and realities of adolescent girls and

boys; and more clearly outline the specific role of UNICEF in helping to fulfil and protect the development and participation rights of adolescents in South Asia.

62. The overall goal of the **child rights, protection and gender equity** programme is to promote, advocate for and support implementation of policies, strategies and programmes which address the fulfilment of the rights of girls and boys, and protect children and women from abuse and neglect, violence, exploitation and discrimination. This goal will be supported through policy development; advocacy and capacity-building of staff and partners; the development of indicators in the region for all forms of violence against girls, boys and women; and identifying and supporting programme interventions that will reduce the violence, abuse and neglect, exploitation and discrimination of children, and mitigate the impact of those violations on children. Specific focus will be on trafficking and gender-based violence.

63. In view of the region's uneven levels of development, the role of UNICEF, in some countries, is moving away from direct support for service delivery and the provision of supplies and equipment for child survival and development. UNICEF increasingly focuses on support for social policy reform, advocacy for children's rights, communication, and alliance-building for child protection and participation. The regional office must increasingly take the leadership role in facilitating the organization's role of providing a centre of knowledge about South Asian children and women, rooted in research and solid field experience in each country. The **learning and knowledge centre** serves as both a documentation unit and a knowledge management unit. The latter will aim to manage and disseminate information on children through various means, in particular through the development of a web site. This will require, first of all, identifying and packaging credible available knowledge in a user-friendly form. The overall goal is to provide the knowledge base for developing and supporting effective programmes for the fulfilment of the rights of children in South Asia.

64. The **children in emergency** programme will respond to the threats of conflicts and natural disasters in the region. The overall goal of the programme is to improve capacity to respond effectively, reliably and in a timely manner to the needs of children and women in unstable situations. The regional office will work closely with the country offices to ensure that the quantity and quality of information on children affected by armed conflict are increased and disseminated among country offices and partners for improved programme action. In addition, technical assistance will be provided to ensure that the skills and knowledge of the staff are improved so that UNICEF core corporate commitments can be met in emergency situations.

Table 7
Advocacy and programme development budget for ROSA
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Advocacy for children and women in South Asia	180	3 300	3 480
A Good Start, A Better Future	320	1 900	2 220
Child rights protection and gender equity	160	6 400	6 560
Learning and knowledge centre	80	4 800	4 880
Children in emergency	60	3 050	3 110
Total	**800**	**19 450**	**20 250**

F. Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States Regional Office programme budget

65. The Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Baltic States provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 27 countries, including those covered by the multi-country programme of the region. The total programme budget for the regional office for the period 2002-2003 is $4.8 million, $0.8 million from regular resources and $4.0 million in other resources. The regional office has identified six main programme interventions.

66. The transition towards a market economy has produced increased unemployment, income inequalities and cuts in social investments in the countries of the region. The combined effect of these factors has weakened the capacity of families to provide for and protect their children, exposing an increased number of children to the risk of becoming deprived of parental care and the family environment. The goal of the **child protection** programme is to promote the reform of social policy and support development of the rights-based social protection systems. The reforms will help to decrease the number of children growing up deprived of the family environment, or deprived of liberty and at high risk of exposure to violence and exploitation. The regional office will support the establishment of national data collection systems and monitoring mechanisms to track and respond to serious violations of children's rights related to exploitation, violence and discrimination. Technical assistance will be provided to country offices and government partners to develop advocacy and social policy tools to promote equitable access to social services and participation opportunities to decrease social exclusion, and to promote cultural responsiveness in institutional practices and individual attitudes. In addition, support will be provided for the establishment of an independent child rights monitoring system (ombudsperson) based on a clear mandate, reporting accountabilities and standards. The regional office will also support assessment of the legislative and policy framework on the protection of children from violence and research on the impact of violence on different aspects of child development.

67. There are currently 79 million young people (15-24 years old) in the region. Profound social and economic changes have resulted in some new opportunities, but

also growing inequality and exclusion for young people, and certainly, a range of increased risk factors which undermine their potential health and development. Institutions and services that provided protection and support and nurtured young people's participation have been eroded. The result has been greater numbers of these young people who are at risk, without opportunities for basic education and with little hope for meaningful employment after school. There is a growing HIV/AIDS epidemic that has increased from 12,000 reported HIV cases in 1995, to 700,000 by the end of 2000. The majority of these new cases are caused by intravenous drug use. The goal and emphasis of the **young people's health, development, protection and participation** programme will be to develop new strategies, giving young people the knowledge and ability to protect themselves, and providing the support services they need to do this effectively. Young people's rights to participate in civil society as equal partners need to be ensured. The greatest challenges facing countries in the region are redefining the responsibilities and strengthening the new roles of Government, building new capacities in civil society, and involving young people in creating alternatives. The regional office will assist country offices to build their capacity to support the development, monitoring and evaluation of effective national programmes on young people's health, development, protection and participation by providing the strategic guidance and support outlined above. Support will be given to develop United Nations, bilateral, NGO and civil society partnerships, and to mobilize technical and programming support for country offices to further develop and implement the UNICEF regional strategy on young people and HIV/AIDS.

68. Although the production of iodized salt is currently increasing in many countries of the region, the overall figure is still relatively low. Thus, unprotected children could be affected by all the complications associated with low dietary intake of iodine, which include a wide range of abnormalities such as an increased incidence of miscarriages, still births and perinatal and infant mortality; impaired mental and physical development; goitre; and endemic cretinism. The overall goal of the **IDD/USI** programme is to assist all countries of the region to achieve USI by 2003 and eliminate IDD by 2005. The regional office will help to mobilize political support for the elimination of IDD, create national alliances to promote iodized salt, and ensure the establishment of rigorous monitoring of progress at country and regional levels.

69. The transition has affected all levels of the education system. Most of the changes brought about have been negative, and Governments are struggling to maintain or improve matters in a climate where the system is over-burdened with challenges inherited from the former system and the limited resources being allocated to education. Although official enrolment rates are still relatively high, regular attendance is becoming a problem. As a result, many of these non-attendees are on the street and confronted with unhealthy lifestyles and habits. The curriculum in most of the region lacks relevance to life skills that are essential for young people today. Social support provided by the schools has declined, and the provision of hot meals, supervision for after-school activities, and health and dental check-ups have fallen dramatically. The overall goal of the **education** programme is to provide support for creating a more child-friendly school environment through support to national policy formulation and improved data collection and analysis, as well as to improve school leadership and classroom instruction. The regional office will assist country offices and Governments in the provision of quality basic education to

vulnerable groups; conduct assessments and analyses throughout the region on drop-outs and non-attendance; and help to develop a child-friendly school guide based on lessons learned from the active learning projects and other school improvement projects that have been implemented.

70. The transition has had serious consequences for children in the early childhood years of development. It has also affected ECD through its effect on the family. There has been a rise in the number of single parent-headed households and an increase in the number of cases of domestic violence. As a result of this absence of ECD opportunities and the poor conditions in which children are spending their formative years, many are entering primary school ill-prepared to learn. The goal of the **integrated ECD** programme is to develop a comprehensive approach by taking into consideration not only formal pre-primary channels, but also by building upon parental and/or primary care providers' contacts with the child. The regional office will assist in designing a framework for conducting an analytical assessment of ECD opportunities and constraints and, using the framework, undertake studies in selected countries. In addition, a guide for countries preparing to work on parenting education practices will be developed based on lessons learned and best practices. The regional office will also assist in the formation of a regional network of ECD resources.

71. In view of the region's level of development and the gradual consolidation of the transition process, UNICEF support is focused mainly on social policy reform, advocacy for children's rights, communication and alliance-building for child protection and participation. The strategy of the **communication** programme will be on developing strategic partnerships, regional programme communication initiatives and resource mobilization. The regional office will provide technical assistance to build the capacity of communication officers in the region through training for emergencies and the use of new media. It will develop a regional business leaders' forum for children in support of country-level partnerships and initiatives.

Table 8
Advocacy and programme development budget for CEE/CIS/Baltic States
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Child protection	300	660	960
Young people's health, development, protection and participation	-	600	600
Iodine deficiency disorders/universal salt iodization	-	500	500
Education	-	1 000	1 000
Integrated early childhood development	100	500	600
Communication	400	740	1 140
Total	**800**	**4 000**	**4 800**

G. Middle East and North Africa Regional Office programme budget

72. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office provides oversight, programme support and technical inputs to 20 countries in the region. The total programme budget for the MENA Regional Office for the period 2002-2003 is $4.3 million, $0.8 million from regular resources and $3.5 million in other resources. The regional office has identified six main programme interventions in support of the MTSP goals and priorities.

73. The main focus of the **health** programme will be in the areas of HIV/AIDS and safe motherhood. HIV/AIDS represent a challenge to almost all countries in the region, as the disease is spreading fast and mortality rates are rising. Although the region is less affected at present compared to other regions, recent reports show that some countries in the region are reporting increasing numbers of cases. The regional office will provide technical and advocacy support for the urgent acceleration of activities to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on children, adolescents and women through various strategies and mechanisms proposed as part of the MTSP. The main focus of support will be on breaking the silence and reducing the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS infection, preventing HIV infection among young people and developing capacities for preventing MTCT. Maternal mortality remains a neglected area in health care, and many women die every year from preventable causes related to pregnancy and child birth. Although many countries in the region have made progress in maternal mortality reduction through effective maternal health programmes, others are still suffering from unacceptably high MMRs. This issue will be promoted through advocacy at the high political level to ensure recognition of the problem, obtain political commitment and initiate effective programmes.

74. Micronutrient deficiency disorders represent important public health problems in many countries in the region. IDD, iron deficiency anaemia and vitamin A deficiency are common problems in the region, and initiatives such as flour fortification with iron, are still at an early stage. While the consumption of iodized salt is still low, vitamin A supplementation is growing more widespread in many countries. The **nutrition** programme will support the wider consumption of fortified flour, iodized salt and vitamin A, and the strengthening of service delivery and logistics management. Activities for such support will include technical assistance, training, communication and social mobilization.

75. Integrated **early child care and development** is a major component of the regional office support to country programmes. This include initiatives in better parenting, community-based ECD and intersectoral planning for ECD. The objectives are to provide appropriate and timely technical support to countries in the region to refine the integrated ECD strategy, build institutional capacity, support policy development, create and maintain a regional network, monitor ECD progress, and document and disseminate lessons learned. In addition, progress has been made in improving the quality of education to sustain and increase primary school participation, particularly of girls. However, a specific focus on the measurement and monitoring of learning achievement at classroom and system levels is required. Support for such activities will include developing standards and monitoring tools, and reporting and documenting progress on learning achievements as a key EFA outcome indicator.

76. The **communication** programme activities for advocacy have strengthened the Global Movement for Children in building a culture of child rights. Governments, civil society organizations, young people and the media have become more actively involved in identifying problems and agreeing on goals. To maintain this momentum, it is envisaged that networking, training and information-sharing will be important to empower the key actors involved. It will also be crucial to provide an opportunity for young people to voice their views in formulating and implementing the agenda for children. Activities will centre on a regional survey of the opinions of youth; media co-productions that highlight issues that concern children; web site design and upgrades to provide access to information on child issues; and support for policy analysis and strategy development, in cooperation with regional institutions.

77. The focus of the regional programme on **child protection and humanitarian response** will be to provide technical assistance to countries to implement methodologies for assessment and data collection. In addition, the regional office will advise in the review of national legislation on protection issues and assist in developing strategies for larger-scale interventions on protection issues. It will also establish and maintain a child protection network and disseminate case studies, experiences and approaches, and strengthen partnerships in this area with other agencies. In order to further strengthen emergency preparedness in the region, capacity-building efforts, started successfully during the previous cycle, will be continued. A major focus will be on contingency planning at country, subregional and regional levels. The programme will provide training in humanitarian response (including health, nutrition, education, and monitoring and evaluation interventions in emergencies), stress management, staff security and media management. The regional office will also facilitate exchanges and programme development in the field of psychosocial support for children affected by armed conflict. Further upgrading of the telecommunications infrastructure of the UNICEF offices in the region is envisaged to improve staff security and operational capacity in emergencies.

78. The **data analysis and monitoring and evaluation** programme, which aims to identify and analyse emerging child rights issues, has resulted in the identification of major measurement challenges, including the integration of regional data, qualitative indicators, sensitive and emerging issues, and capacity-building. In order to address these concerns, support will be provided for the consolidation and refinement of a subregional database to improve data availability on both "traditional" and emerging child rights issues. The programme will assist in the development, formulation and implementation of common modular research protocols to enable countries to collect and analyse comparable sets of information related to children's and women's rights. The research findings will be disseminated, and community capacity will be built for planning and monitoring. This will increase knowledge on the situation of children and women, and facilitate the effective use of information for policy development and decision-making.

Table 9
Advocacy and programme development budget for MENA
(In thousands of United States dollars)

Programme area	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Health	90	810	900
Nutrition	80	100	180
Early child care and development	180	200	380
Communication	200	300	500
Child protection and humanitarian response	70	1 755	1 825
Data analysis and monitoring and evaluation	180	350	530
Total	**800**	**3 515**	**4 315**

IV. Intercountry programmes

79. The overall purpose of the intercountry programmes is to allow the organization to respond to new opportunities for children as they arise at regional, multi-country, country and, in exceptional cases, global levels, in addition to the ceilings approved through individual programme recommendations. These funds provide a flexible window to receive and assign new contributions, often of a significant magnitude covering several countries, which cannot be immediately accommodated within approved funding ceilings, but which are justified in enabling the organization to rapidly and effectively seize the opportunity to mobilize and deploy additional resources. This funding window is anticipated to support the MTSP priority thrusts in such priority and often urgent areas as polio eradication, malaria control, the expanded programme on immunization (EPI), HIV/AIDS and emergency preparedness. The total amount requested for the 2002-2003 biennium is $73 million.

80. In the 2000-2001 biennium, the Executive Board approved $125.9 million in other resources for intercountry programmes. Significant funds were received from several major donors, including the Governments of Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom; the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Canadian International Development Agency; Rotary International; the Swedish International Development Authority; UNAIDS; the United Nations Foundation; the United States Agency for International Development; and a number of UNICEF National Committees for programme interventions in areas including polio eradication, EPI, micronutrients, girls' education and emergency preparedness capacity. These funds were allocated to field offices in all regions and provided the opportunities for these countries and regions to respond to high priority needs and expand programme expenditures which were not currently covered under the approved programme ceilings.

V. Draft resolutions

Draft resolution 1

Regular resources programme budget estimates for the 2002-2003 biennium

81. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft resolution on regular resources programme budget estimates for the 2002-2003 biennium for programme activities at headquarters and regional offices:

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That a regular resources programme budget of $19.67 million is approved (other than the Emergency Programme Fund) for 2002-2003 as per the following details:

	(In thousands of United States dollars)
Headquarters	
Health	1 203
Nutrition	800
Education	850
Child protection	430
HIV/AIDS	793
Water, environment and sanitation	504
Programme policy, planning and information management	1 760
Information technology	-
Advocacy and communication	3 990
Emergency preparedness	930
Evaluations	671
Inter-agency collaboration	740
Subtotal	**12 671**
Regions	
Eastern and Southern Africa	1 500
West and Central Africa	1 500
The Americas and Caribbean	800
East Asia and the Pacific	800
South Asia	800
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States	800
Middle East and North Africa	800
Subtotal	**7 000**
Total	**19 671**

(b) That the budget for the Emergency Programme Fund for 2002-2003 is approved for $25 million;

(c) That the Executive Director be authorized to administer the funds in the most efficient manner under the provision for each of the funds. The Executive Director may, without further authorization from the Executive Board, transfer, if necessary, between the programme fields an amount not exceeding 10 per cent of the approved budget of the fund to which the transfer is made.

Draft resolution 2

Other resources-funded programme budget estimates for the 2002-2003 biennium

82. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft resolution on other resources-funded programme budget estimates for the 2002-2003 biennium for programme activities at headquarters and regional offices:

The Executive Board

Decides:

(a) That an other resources-funded programme budget of $203 million is approved for the 2002-2003 biennium, subject to availability of specific-purpose contributions, as follows:

	Headquarters	*Regions*	*Intercountry*	*Total*
	(In thousands of United States dollars)			
Regions				
Eastern and Southern Africa		14 800		14 800
West and Central Africa		9 400		9 400
The Americas and Caribbean		9 000		9 000
East Asia and the Pacific		6 650		6 650
South Asia		19 450		19 450
Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States		4 000		4 000
Middle East and North Africa		3 515		3 515
Subtotal		**66 825**		**66 825**

	Headquarters	*Regions*	*Intercountry*	*Total*
	(In thousands of United States dollars)			
Headquarters				
Health	5 412		15 000	20 412
Nutrition	4 111		5 000	9 111
Education	1 896		5 000	6 896
Child protection	7 284		5 000	12 284
HIV/AIDS	821		10 000	10 821
Water, environment and sanitation	2 630		2 500	5 130
Programme policy, planning and information management	11 246		4 500	15 746
Information technology	15 300		1 000	16 300
Advocacy and communication	7 250		3 000	10 250
Emergency preparedness	6 700		20 000	26 700
Evaluations	200		1 000	1 200
Inter-agency collaboration	150		1 000	1 150
Subtotal	**63 000**		**73 000**	**136 000**
Total	**63 000**	**66 825**	**73 000**	**202 815**

(b) That for the biennium 2002-2003, a total recommendation of $203 million for other resources funding is approved. If necessary, funds in excess of indicated amounts for specific programme areas and regions can be received provided that the total amount of funds received is within the approved limit.